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RURAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT

newsletter

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No. 48

We must show the world what a free economy can do ...to put unused capacity to work, spur new productivity and foster higher economic growth.

President Kennedy.

PRESIDENT SIGNS FARM BILL -- NOTES LAND-USE PART

On September 27, President Kennedy signed the Food and Agriculture Act of 1962. Though there are other important sections in the bill, the President noted that the land-use provisions (Title I) may turn out to be the most important. These provide for aiding farmers and state and local public agencies in turning farmland into multiple-use purposes, such as recreation and conservation uses.

"It opens up possibilities for constructive and continuing programs of multiple-use of private and public conservation projects, expanded open air space areas around cities, and economic development of some of our less developed areas."

Farmers could use land for public hunting, fishing, picnicking and other recreation facilities.

Secretary Freeman termed the new farm bill, as one which 10 years from now will be remembered more for its provisions to strengthen rural areas than for its commodity programs.

NEW FARM LAW PROVIDES VALUABLE TOOLS FOR RAD

Valuable new resources, which will give new strength to the nationwide rural areas development program, are authorized in Title I of the recently enacted Food and Agriculture Act of 1962. A tremendous expansion of outdoor recreational facilities for all Americans will result from the new authorities which Agriculture now has. There will also be rural renewal projects.



Farmers, small-town businessmen, and city folks will benefit from this Act. On the initiative of local people, the Department can embark on a full multiple purpose land-use program, one which encompasses recreation, conservation, and water use. New impetus will be given to the production of fish and wildlife on farm and ranch land.



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Growth Through Agricultural Progress

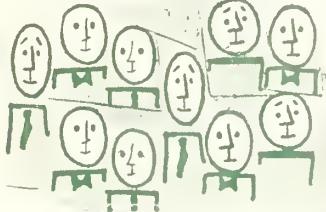
Additional emphasis will be given to getting cropland into grass and trees to reduce crop production, while improving the timber production and wildlife habitat. These land changes will reduce erosion and silting of streams and water supply reservoirs.

These new Agriculture programs will also mesh with the aid already being received by local rural people under the Area Redevelopment Act and Accelerated Public Works Act.

A more detailed account of what the new Agriculture Act means to rural areas development may be obtained by writing: Editor, Rural Areas Development Newsletter, Washington 25, D. C.

THOUSANDS ATTEND LAND AND PEOPLE CONFERENCES

Over 5,000 persons attended the first three Land & People Conferences, held in St. Louis, Mo., Portland, Ore., and Denver, Colo. The people listened, they discussed, and they recommended to the Secretary of Agriculture on how to spur economic renewal of the nation's rural communities.



The opening meeting set the tempo. The people of rural America -- bankers, businessmen, the clergy, farmers, laborers, housewives, public officials -- came to speak. All had one message in common -- all wanted to strengthen rural America.

Throughout the conferences, the theme -- local responsibility in rural areas development -- was stressed by both the Secretary and by the local people attending. Voicing the sentiment of those present, Secretary Freeman said: "It is utterly inconceivable to think that in the American society there is a lack of resources, a lack of ingenuity, or a shortage of determination to revitalize rural America."

"Concern over our agriculture abundance has obscured the plight of people and communities. Concern," declared the Secretary, "has centered on commodities -- instead of communities."

The results of these conferences can be summed up as one newspaper account related: The people "went home fired with enthusiasm and new ideas to stimulate economic development programs in their own communities."

OREGON FARMER HARVESTS TROUT FOR 1,500 PEOPLE YEARLY

Edward Cook, a former filbert grower of Portland, Oregon, nine years ago decided to quit tree nut farming and go into trout farming. He purchased a 15-acre spot in the foothills of the Oregon Coast Range, that straddles a small stream with a nearly constant water temperature of 50 degrees. He constructed five rearing ponds and six holding ponds for the trout. He also built a 200,000 egg hatchery and 12 individual picnic spots for his fishing customers. About 1,500 customers patronize the place each year. In addition, Cook sells live trout for stocking private fishing waters.

HIGHWAY OPENS FOUR-STATE AREA TO TOURISM POTENTIAL

The opening of a new highway link on the Navajo Trail, in the area where the four States of Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and Utah meet, holds promise of helping the area develop a profitable tourist trade. For the first time, the 160-mile highway opens up the area for visitors, while improving the lot of the area's residents -- mostly Indians. The Department of the Interior's Bureau of Outdoor Recreation can provide trained counsel to the Indian groups interested in developing a tourism industry.



TWO IOWA RURAL ELECTRIC CO-OPS FOSTER RURAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT

In the Midwest, the Guthrie County Rural Electric Co-op and the Greene County Rural Electric Co-op, both of Iowa, in their own way are fostering rural development. The Guthrie co-op made a pilot study last year which resulted in a \$100,000 Federal grant by the Area Redevelopment Administration. The grant, reviewed by USDA, points the way to more jobs for rural people. The funds are to be used to assist Iowans in the development of inventions and production ideas.

The Greene co-op is helping in recreation development. They spotted utility service poles around their service area at choice highway locations, added picnic tables, and installed a coin-operated meter, where tourists can stop, rest, and have a roadside meal, with the convenience of electric service, as they travel.

NATIONAL FOREST CONTRIBUTES TO OREGON COUNTY AREA



A half million dollars a year is returned to Lincoln County, Oregon, by the Siuslaw National Forest, only one of 15⁴ such national forests in this Nation. It contributes other benefits to the area, too -- a timber harvest averaging 333 million board feet yearly, a clean water source for the area's cities, and recreation for fishermen, hunters, campers and picnickers.

NEBRASKA FARMER CHANGES FROM WHEAT TO TREE FARMING, ADDS RECREATION

Dave Grasmick, of Scottsbluff, Nebraska, writes: "We are changing from wheat production to pine tree farming and also installing a "go-kart" track for recreation on our ranch. Trees will be planted on a 30-acre field next spring and the go-kart track will be ready by next April. Track will be lighted. Sixty acres of pine trees will be planted on land now producing corn and other feed grains."

MISSOURI DAIRYMAN SHIFTS TO RECREATION FARMING

Like many another farmer, Walter Braddock, of Douglas County, Mo., was having difficulty making a living on his 400-acre farm. He shifted from dairying to raising cattle. And, he made part of his farm an attraction that city people would pay to use.

Braddock created two small lakes and stocked them with fish. He planted the right kind of cover to appeal to deer and wild turkey. Now he caters to hunters and fishermen for a fee. His income is on the upswing.

CITIZENS OF TAOS, NEW MEXICO, ARE ON THE MOVE

■ The people of Taos, New Mexico, organized in a rural areas development committee, are hard at work on developing projects. Among the projects which the local people are aiming for their area include: Increasing tourism in the area through the use of signs and better facilities; the building of a home for the aged -- the handicapped; starting a training school for electrical linemen; increasing tree farming; constructing a western style furniture plant. Terry Moynihan, coordinator of the Community's RAD group, says: "This is a community effort. Everyone is interested and working hard. And this is the only way rural areas development will succeed. The first spark must come from the local people. The government must stand ready to help when we need it by providing the technical and financial aid required to move many of these local projects. We know what we want. We need the tools to accomplish it."

RURAL AREAS RECEIVE ONE-HALF OF ARA ASSISTANCE

■ The September issue of Rural Electrification, publication of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, reports that rural counties eligible for ARA assistance (757) have received one-half of all financial assistance projects approved to date. In addition, of the 300 projects now being processed about fifty percent are in rural areas.

Rural Electrification comments that most eligible rural counties had development committees under the ongoing RAD program, and were ready to move when the ARA program got started. "For rural America," says the article, "it was a logical supplement to the already established RAD program."

The article points out that in the ARA pipeline there are \$154 million worth of projects, \$90 million of which are from rural areas. In its first year of operation ARA approved 50 industrial loans, 24 in rural areas creating 5,000 jobs. Twenty-three of the 44 ARA approved public facilities were in rural areas creating nearly 9,000 more new jobs.

These rural projects covered a wide range of economic activity -- from a packing company in Greenfield, Ohio, to a plywood plant in Grants Pass, Ore.; from a meatpacking company in Demopolis, Ala., to a soft drink bottling plant in Socorro, N. Mex.; from a fish processing plant in Apalachicola, Fla., to a paper mill in Pickens, Miss.; from a peat moss plant in Jonesport, Maine, to a sporting goods firm in Ava, Mo.; from the replacement of a burned-out cabinet plant in New Providence, Ind., to the replacement of a burned-out textile plant in Sylvania, Ga.

Copies of this article are available from Editor, Rural Areas Newsletter, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

CHURCH LEADERS ENDORSE RURAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT

■ The board of directors of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, lay as well as clergy, endorsed the Rural Areas Development program at their national meeting held recently in Amarillo, Texas. The church leaders commended the RAD approach to the task of developing rural resources. They stated: "RAD gives unity and direction to many divergent efforts to improve rural areas, and there is a proper division of responsibility between local leaders and governmental agencies."

The Conference warns that the RAD program might be weakened or destroyed: by its becoming a tool of political, religious or other factions; by failure on the part of the several agencies involved to work together harmoniously; and by tardiness in moving from the planning to the action phase of this program.